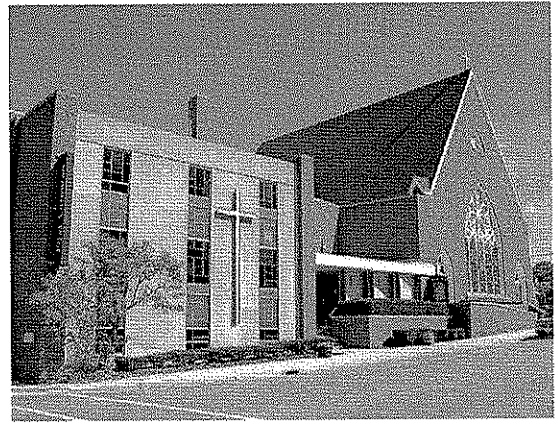


# First News

First Lutheran Church  
Freeport, IL 61032



**THROUGH WORSHIP AND LOVING SERVICE,  
WE MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO ALL**

Volume 35 #26

September 4, 2009

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 5-6, 2009



James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows

no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.



Known to be hospitalized is Harry Strohecker at FHN Memorial Hospital.

"The family of Delmar Thoman would like to thank our First Lutheran 'Family' for your cards, memorial gifts, phone calls, the pallbearers, and the Women of the ELCA for planning the funeral luncheon. A special thank you to Pastor Mark Luepke for the funeral service. We appreciate everyone keeping our family in your thoughts and prayers." -Dorothy Thoman and Family

Jeanette Leopold would like to thank everyone who sent expressions of sympathy on the death of her brother, Robert Camerer.

Congratulations to Brad & Bri Wall on the birth of their daughter, Ruarie Ellen Wall, on August 29 in Prescott, Arizona. Grandparents are Gene & Sharon Wall.

Congratulations to Dusty & Jessica Schutte on the birth of their son, Dawson Walter Schutte, on September 1 in Freeport. Grandparents are Dale & Pat Schutte.

Congratulations to Mark & Anne Wagner on the birth of their daughter, Analise Grace Wagner, on August 27 in Winona, Minnesota. Grandparents are Don & Lois Wagner.

*From the Volunteer Coordinator -It's not the load that breaks us down, it's the way we carry it.*

#### RALLY DAY '09



To *Little Cubs Field* for batting practice and baseball to celebrate our return to Sunday school and catechism classes.

We'll meet on Sunday, September 13, 2009 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Kids and Adults enter the park FREE of charge. Hotdogs and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, your own table service, and a blanket or chairs to sit on.

In case of rain, bring a board or card game and your dish to the fellowship hall.

(Regular Sunday school/catechism classes begin that morning at 9:30 a.m.)

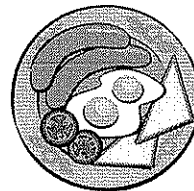
#### NEWS FROM THE NURSERY

We are currently offering a nursery only at our 10:45 a.m. service. If you would like to have a nursery available at the 8:15 a.m. service, please contact the church office.

#### WE'RE BACK...

*First News* is returning to its regular schedule of a newsletter each week. However, we will not be sending a newsletter the week of September 14. To be sure your news is published, please have your items turned into the office on Tuesdays. You may e-mail them to the church at: [friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com). Thanks!

#### FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



The Evangelism Committee has made arrangements with Don & Ingrid Heilman to continue to cater our monthly Fellowship Breakfast. Our first Fellowship Breakfast will be on September 13 between services. The suggested donation to help cover expenses is \$6.00. The breakfasts will be held on the second Sunday of each month. The menu on the 13<sup>th</sup> will be: Two kinds of eggs, toast & jelly, sausage, pancakes, and applesauce. Please come and enjoy the good food and fellowship!

## CHOIRS TO BEGIN



All choirs will begin rehearsals Thursday September 10, 2009. Kids of the Kingdom, Praise Band, & Bells begin at 6:30 p.m. The Celebration choir starts at 7:30 p.m. Please

join us! Questions? Contact Dawn Zeigler at 815-233-3517.

## PROJECT WORKDAY



Project Workday will meet this month on Thursday, September 10th and 24th in the Martin Luther Room from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come down for part or all

of the day and bring your lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour.

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD WOMEN'S CONVENTION

The annual women's convention will be held on Saturday, September 19th at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Registration forms are on the WELCA bulletin board and cost is \$30 for the day. Contact Jan Butterfield or Ruth Wardlow to car-pool.

## CROP WALK



Plan on participating in this year's CROP Walk which will be held on Sunday, September 27 - either as a walker or a sponsor. Contact Dee Lieber if you have any questions.

## CATECHISM ORIENTATION

There will be Catechism orientation for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are students this Sunday, September 6, between services.

## GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,



I don't know how it is going for you, but my life is getting busier and busier. Church education opportunities are getting ready to swing into gear. I'm experiencing the honor of meeting more

and more of the members of First Lutheran. I'm learning more and more of the ministry resources available to the people of Freeport and surrounding communities. I'm trying to listen carefully to the needs being expressed by the body of Christ. Yes, the plate is getting full.

But you know what? Since when did life start revolving around me? It doesn't matter who you are, where you are, or what you are doing, without God, your life probably will never really be all that life could be. Take time to invite God into every aspect of your life. Take time to thank God for every situation in your life. Take time to study God's Word. Take time to pray to God. Take time to walk with God. Take time to listen to God. I honestly don't even want to know how many times I have missed something God was wanting to say to me just because I allowed my self to become distracted by "things."

Who do we think gave us the gift of time in the first place? God knows who we are and God knows just what we need to live, so God gave us a gift. God gave us Jesus. God gave us the gift of being with each other, as body of Christ. Maybe the plate is full, but by sharing with God and with each other, we can learn how to carry the plate...together.

In Christ,

Pastor Keith

First News  
First Lutheran Church  
303 S. Galena Avenue  
Freeport, IL 61032

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Keith Johnson, Pastor  
Peg Huber, Office Manager  
JoAnn Beckman, Volunteer Coordinator  
Dagny Brandt, Celebration Choir Director  
Christina Parkinson, Praise Band Director, Choir Accompanist

Milt Whitney, Visitation Pastor  
John Moore, Lay President  
Dawn Zeigler, Music Coordinator, Organist, Bell Choir Director  
Teresa Parkinson, Choir Accompanist  
Elwyn Euler, Custodian

Telephone: 235-9790 Fax: 235-9791

Website: [www.firstlutheranfreeport.com](http://www.firstlutheranfreeport.com)

E-Mail: [friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com](mailto:friends@firstlutheranfreeport.com)

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**SEPTEMBER 6      FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. Worship Services  
Monday              Labor Day - Office Closed  
Wednesday        1:00 p.m. NW Conference Pastor's Text Study  
7:00 p.m. Council Meeting  
Thursday           10:00 a.m. Workday  
6:30 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom & Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal  
Friday              6:30 p.m. NA Teen Meeting  
Saturday           6:30 a.m. MBA at Big Apple  
5:00 p.m. Worship Service

**THE PARISH RECORD**

August 29/30    Saturday 5:00-16    Sunday 8:15-81    10:45-56    Total-153    Offerings \$2,347.91